

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 058150

44

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 /014 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:SWWORREL:DF

APPROVED BY EUR/NE:JJCROWLEY

----- 074325

P 101716Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 058150

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, UK

SUBJECT: PRESS ARTICLES ON MR. ARMSTRONG

1. FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF TWO RECENT ARTICLES ON MR. ARMSTRONG.

2. WASHINGTON STAR, MARCH 9, "THE EAR:" BEGIN TEXT:

RIDE 'EM COWBOY...EVERYONE WONDERED HOW ON EARTH AMBASSADOR ANNE ARMSTRONG'S HUBBY, TOBIN, WOULD KEEP HIMSELF BUSY OVER THERE. WELL. NOT ONLY HAS HE BEEN GETTING HIS CHILIS BUT ALSO HIS VERY OWN ANGUS AND HEREFORD BEEF FLOWN IN FROM TEXAS. (TALK ABOUT COALS TO NEW CASTLE, EARWIGS.) NOW, EAR HEARS, HE'S TO BE APPOINTED EARL BUTZ'S SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON (AT \$36,000 PLUS). HE'S TO BE IN CHARGE OF "INVESTIGATING LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE AND THE WORLD, AND REDUCING FEEDING COSTS." EUR HOPES HE WARNS THEM ALL ABOUT WHEAT DEALS. END TEXT.

3. WASHINGTON POST, MARCH 10TH, DAN MORGAN, PG.2: BEGIN TEXT:

ENVOY'S HUSBAND TO PLUG U.S. GRAIN.

THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT HAS RETAINED TEXAS RANCHER TOBIN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 058150

UNCLASSIFIED

ARMSTRONG, HUSBAND OF AMBASSADOR TO GREAT BRITAIN ANNE ARMSTRONG, TO PROMOTE THE SALE OF AMERICAN FEED GRAINS TO EUROPE DURING THEIR OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT SAID ARMSTRONG WOULD GET NO PAY BUT WOULD BE REIMBURSED FOR TRAVEL AND EXPENSES WHILE ON MISSIONS TO PUSH AMERICAN FARM EXPORTS.

DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN SAID ARMSTRONG'S MAIN ROLE WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE THE EUROPEANS TO REDUCE MEAT PRICES, SO CONSUMERS THERE WILL EAT MORE BEEF, PORK AND CHICKEN AND FARMERS WILL NEED MORE U.S. GRAIN FOR FATTENING ANIMALS.

REACHED BY TELEPHONE AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN LONDON YESTERDAY, ARMSTRONG SAID THERE WAS A "VAST POTENTIAL FOR MARKETING" AMERICAN FARM PRODUCTS IN EUROPE.

"I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO REASONABLY EFFECTIVE WORK FOR THE DEPARTMENT," HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD NOT PERFORM ANY PROMOTIONAL WORK IN ENGLAND, SINCE THAT "WOULDN'T BE APPROPRIATE" IN VIEW OF HIS WIFE'S POSITION.

THE WEALTHY RANCHER AND CATTLEMAN ACCOMPANIED HIS WIFE TO LONDON LAST WEEK, WHEN SHE TOOK UP HER DUTIES.

MRS. ARMSTRONG, A FORMER CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND CABINET-LEVEL COUNSELOR TO PRESIDENTS NIXON AND FORD, WAS NOMINATED IN JANUARY.

HER HUSBAND SAID YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD BEEN "LOOKING FOR SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE TO DO" WHILE ABROAD WHEN HE DISCUSSED THE MARKETING ROLE WITH AGRICULTURE SECRETARY EARL L. BUTZ. "HE PICKED IT RIGHT UP," HE RECALLED.

PAUL DEMBLING, GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, CONGRESS' WATCHDOG AGENCY, SAID HE DID NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT ARMSTRONG'S JOB TO SAY WHETHER A CONFLICT OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 058150

INTEREST WAS INVOLVED.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT UNDER THE LAW IT WAS IRRELEVANT WHETHER A PERSON IS PAID OR NOT. IF HE OR SHE IS EMPLOYED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, "THE WHOLE PANOPLY OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMES INTO PLAY," HE SAID.

AMERICA'S POLICY ON AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO EUROPE IS ONE

OF THE THORNIEST AND MOST POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE TRANSAT-

LANTIC ECONOMIC ISSUES. A MAJOR GOAL OF US NEGOTIATORS AT TRADE TALKS IN GENEVA IS TO GET THE EUROPEANS TO LOWER THEIR IMPORT BARRIERS TO US FARM PRODUCTS. THE EUROPEANS RESIST THIS PROPOSAL IN FAVOR OF PROTECTING LOCAL FARMERS AGAINST THE COMPETITION OF AMERICAN IMPORTS.

WE WANT TO USE HIM (ARMSTRONG) AT MEETINGS, TO MAKE SPEECHES TO TRY TO EXPAND THE CONSUMPTION OF ANIMAL PROTEIN FOODS," SAID DAVID L. HUME, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

HUMES SAID THAT ARMSTRONG MIGHT BE ASKED TO TRY TO CONVINCE EUROPEAN FEED PROCESSORS TO USE MORE AMERICAN CORN IN MIXES.

HE SAID THERE WAS "NO CONNECTION" BETWEEN THE WORK AND ARMSTRONG'S OWN EXTENSIVE FARMING AND RANCHING OPERATIONS IN ARMSTRONG, TEXAS.

THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS DIVISION DIRECTOR, JOSEPH T. MCDAVID, SAID ARMSTRONG "DOESN'T HAVE A BLANK CHECK TO GO TRAVELING ANYWHERE," THOUGH HE KNEW OF NO CEILING ON EXPENSES.

IN RECENT YEARS, THE LONDON POST HAS GONE TO MULTIMILLIONAIRES WHO CAN AFFORD THE HEAVY DIPLOMATIC EXPENSES.

"MR. ARMSTRONG CERTAINLY DOESN'T NEED THE MONEY," QUIPPED ONE OFFICIAL. END TEXT. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE058150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SWWORREL:DF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760091-0026
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760375/aaaacnqj.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <14 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS ARTICLES ON MR. ARMSTRONG
TAGS: PFOR, US, UK
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006